

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

38. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding an immunogenic portion of a soluble *M. tuberculosis* antigen, wherein the nucleic acid hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:46 ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:26-51, 138, 139, 163-183, 201, 240, 242-247, 253-256, 295-298, 309, 316, 318-320, 322, 324, 328, 329, 333, 335, 337, 339, and 341,~~ or a complement thereof.

39. (previously presented) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid of claim 38.

40. (previously presented) A host cell comprising an expression vector of claim 39.

41. (previously presented) The host cell of claim 40, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, yeast, and mammalian cells.

42. (previously presented) A composition comprising a nucleic acid of claim 38 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

43-51. (canceled)